Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1662 - June 19 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen, here is amateur radio Newsline's Support Fund administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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OK, you all know why I am here. Its spring and all the bills from last winter have been mounting up. And, as usual, there is really not very much left in the treasury to pay them. Eventually they have got to get paid or these news reports will cease. That time is now.

So we ask that you take a few moments to send a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund so that we can keep these newscasts coming your way. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal. Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio Newsline will be eternally grateful and these newscasts will be here for you..

Once again that's the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

For the Support Fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Thank you Andy. That ends the closed circuit advisory. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1662 with a release date of Friday, June 19th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. A new record for International Space Station to schoolroom contacts, the noise goes away from 6 meters as digital television arrives, a World Administrative Radio preparatory conference takes place in Canada and ham radio is again growing in the United States. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1662 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS REACHES 443 SCHOOL CONTACTS

A major milestone for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS school project. This as the total number of ARISS contacts between the astronaut hams on board the orbiting outpost and schoolrooms here on Earth has now reached 443. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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An average of 20 students are able to ask questions of an on-orbit crew during a normal ARISS contact. That totals out to well over 8000 school kids world-wide who have gotten a chance to vicariously visit the International Space Station via ham radio since the classroom contact program began.

For those not aware, today's Amateur Radio on the International Space Station to schoolroom educational program is a direct outgrowth of the old SAREX or Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. It was begun in the mid-1980's under the aegis of the late Roy Neal, K6DUE, and operated under the joint sponsorship of AMSAT, the ARRL and the educational arm of NASA.

As space experimentation has progressed so has amateur radio's part in it. Today, the ARISS school contact program is an important part of this ongoing work by ham radio volunteers world-wide. Hams working with astronauts and cosmonauts to bring the science of spaceflight a little closer to kids here on Earth.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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A complete listing of all scheduled school contacts, and questions, other I-S-S related websites, along with IRLP and Echolink websites related to this ongoing project can be found on-line. Its at http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ariss/news/arissnews.rtf (ANS)

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RESTRUCTURING: 6 METER NOISE FLOOR DROPS AS DTV REPLACES ANALOG

A present to the United States VHF and UHF ham community. This from both the broadcasters and the FCC as many of the nations VHF television stations vacate many of the low VHF channels, go digital and lower the overall noise floor on 6 meters.

The big digital television change out began at 00:01 EST on Friday, June 12th. Stations across the nation chose their own time to turn off their analog transmitters and move their operations to their permanent digital channels. Many of the low-band stations opted to move to the UHF band. A lot of them operated on Channel 2 just above the 6 meter ham band. And when those analog channel 2 transmitters went QRT, the noise level on 6 meters dropped in many locations. Places like Chicago, where Keith Morehouse, W9RM, reported over the VHF Reflector that this is a big plus in Chicago where the long known Channel 2 audio spur is gone. That spur used to trash the WSJT meteor scatter calling frequency 50.260 MHz.

In Milwaukee Ray Greiner, K9KHW, reports on the analog shutdown on VHF channels 4, 6 and 12. He reports that he found most of the VHF and UHF

ham bands so quiet that he actually checked and see if his antennas were connected. He says that on 6 meters where the normal noise level was S-3 to S-4, its now zero.

But 6 meters is not the only band seeing a noise floor improvement. Steve Rutledge, N4JQQ, is in Memphis Tennessee/ He says that when VHF channel 3 went to UHF and channels 5 and 13 went digital on their current assignments, that the noise he heard on the 222 MHz ham band when pointing his beam East is now completely gone. He says that in the past, that the noise level was so high that it wiped out any signal from the east, even with a bandpass filter before his tower mounted preamp.

Even some of those living North of the United States and Canadian border are happy about the change. Jordan Arndt, VE6ZT, in Calgary, Ontario says that he can hear the difference up in Grid Square DO-21. This is especially true when the band is open.

Its going to take a few weeks to really assess the impact that the digital television conversion will have on most of the VHF and UHF ham bands, but so far the results seem very good indeed. (ARNewsline, VHF Reflector)

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RESTRUCTURING: WRC PREP MEETING HELD IN CANADA

Over 100 delegates from countries in the Americas gathered for a meeting June 2nd to the 5th in Ottawa, Canada. This in preparation for the next World Radio Conference that is to be held in Geneva late in 2011. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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Almost every item on the WRC Agenda was discussed . The goal was to find common ground that would be supported by the CITEL countries. Some subjects of interest to amateur radio discussed including the future of Broadband Over Powerline standards for adoption at the next meeting in November at Washington, D.C..

A common paper was produced and adopted by the plenary that most probably will be the basis of a joint Region 2 proposal at an upcoming meeting. Also, the delegates agreed to keep an eye on several agenda items that, although not of direct interest to Amateur Radio, could affect us depending on the positions adopted.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

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Amateur radio for IARU Region 2 was represented by Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and Dario Jurado, HP1DJ. Jon Siverling, WB3ERA was on the USA delegation and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, was part of the Canadian contingent. (RAC, Southgate)

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RESTRUCTURING: SOUTH AFRICA GIVES NEW PRIVILEGES ON 40 AND 20

South African radio amateurs will now have full access to the spectrum 7.000 to 7.200 MHz. In a government notice issued on Wednesday, June 10th, changes to both 40 and 20 meters were made final. In addition to the modification on 40, ZR licensees will now also have access from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz. The expanded privileges for South African hams is a direct result of negotiations begun in February of 2008 between the South African Radio League and that nations telecommunications regulation authority. (SARL)

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SPECTRUM PLANNING: VK HAMS HOLD REPEATER PLANNING MEETING FOR FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Hams in the United States seem to be going in many different directions in planning the future of repeater communications and frequency coordination as it enters a new age. Meantime their counterparts down-under are taking the proverbial bull by the horns. They gathered together on Sunday June 7th to make sure repeaters in Australia are ready for the future and the future is ready for what ham radio repeaters will offer. Robert Broomhead, VK3DN, has the details.

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Not surprisingly, just like the commercial radio-communications industry, Australian amateur spectrum in the 2 meter VHF band and to a lesser degree in the 70cm UHF band is very congested or not available for new technologies.

The forum was kicked off with a presentation from the two Peters on the issues and how other IARU Regions have tackled similar problems, which stimulated further discussion of the issues. The outcome lead to some positive steps forward for the need to explore better use of CTCSS tone code to protect FM repeaters from unwanted incidental interference, a tentative way forward to address adjacent FM channel interference issues from D-Star mobiles and the development of 12.5 kHz plans for repeaters and simplex channels for wider discussion in the amateur community.

The forum was organized by the WIA to formulate options for addressing identified interference issues between repeaters along the New South Wales coastal areas and the need to explore future spectrum options for new digital technologies.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Robert Broomhead, VK3DN, in Australia.

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The last Australian meeting to discussion these sorts or issues was held in the early 1970's. That's where the foundations of today's existing V-K band plans for repeaters were made. Here in the United

States its been over a decade since the ARRL hosted the famed Big Old Meeting of repeater coordinators and the FCC. (WIA News)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Catalina Repeater Association systems serving Los Angeles and Orange County, California.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO GROWTH: THE NUMBERS ARE UP

The overall number of United States amateur radio operators appears to have increased by 12,877 from June 15 2008 to June 15th, 2009. This according to George Mc Couch, K3UD, who notes that the Technician class had the largest large increase. It showed an overall gain of 9,092 with the General adding 4,427 to its license rolls.

On the downside was the Novice that declined by 1,703 and Advanced by 2,029. This is due to attrition and upgrading away from both of these classes which are no longer offered by the FCC.

Looking at license class popularity, K3UD's numbers indicate that the Technician license is still the most sought after by newcomers and it has continued to make good gains over the last 12 months. But there is still a trend of Technicians upgrading to General begun some years ago that is ongoing. Also being seen is significant movement to Extra. It has shown an increases of 3,090 hams earning the top of the line ticket.

As to actual numbers, on May 16th of this year there were only 17,497 Novice class while Technician growth makes that class the largest with 327,793 holders. Generals number 147,644, Advanced sit at 61,204 and Extra rounds out the service with 117,387. That adds up to 671,525 licensed by the United States F-C-C.

K3UD points out that his figures are a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers taken at two different times and are a snapshot comparison of two dates a year apart. As such, the numbers do not show the changes taking place every day which sometimes are up and other times downward.   (K3UD via QRZ.con)

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RESCUE RADIO: GAO SAYS FEMA NOT READY

A report issued by the Government Accountability Office says FEMA does not have a plan to coordinate all the national disaster exercises. Also, that it cannot track whether other federal agencies and

communities across the country are prepared to respond to disasters. In its response to the report, FEMA said it relies on cooperation from other agencies to complete some of its plans. (Published reports)

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RADIO LAW: CONGRESS TO HEAR LOUD VOLUME BILL

A measure that would require the FCC to set a standard for commercial volume for broadcast, cable and satellite programming is making its way through Congress. The House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet has scheduled a hearing on H.R.1084, better known as the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act. The bill would require the FCC to set a standard for commercial volume for broadcast, cable and satellite programming. The idea is to insure that the volume of ads isn't too loud and isn't louder than the surrounding programming. If enacted into law, the measure would prevent commercials from being excessively noisy or strident; having modulation levels substantially higher than the accompanying program or having an average maximum loudness substantially higher than that of the accompanying program. HR 1804 was introduced last February 13th by Democrat Anna Eshoo of California. It already has 28 co-sponsors. (RW) ** COMMUNICATIONS LAW: A BIG WIN FOR BLOGGERS AND COMMENTERS IN MD A big win for those who like to blog and post comments on the Internet. This as a court in Maryland says posters are protected under that states law. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details: -- COMMUNICATIONS LAW: MARYLAND SIDES WITH BLOGGERS IN DEFAMATION VS FREE SPEECH CASE

** Maryland's highest court has ruled that operators of newspaper Web sites, blogs and chat rooms that allow readers to post anonymous comments using pseudonyms do not have to readily reveal the posters' identities in defamation suits. This as the Maryland Court of Appeals reversed a lower court ruling and ordered that NewsZap.com, an online forum run by Independent Newspapers, does not have to disclose the identities of forum participants who engaged in an online exchange about the cleanliness of a Dunkin' Donuts shop in 2006.

The late February finding involves the case of an Eastern Shore businessman, had contended that the anonymous posters using screen name pseudonyms had defamed him in comments about his Centreville restaurant. The Appeals Court ruled that the plaintiff had not correctly identified the forum participants and, therefore, was not entitled to learn of their identities. More broadly, however, the court used the case to recommend a strict, five-step process for judges to follow to balance the First Amendment right to anonymous speech on the Internet with the opportunity on the part of the object of that speech to seek judicial redress for alleged defamation.

The process, which closely matches one set out by a New Jersey court in 2002, requires a plaintiff claiming defamation from an online comment to try to notify the anonymous poster that the person is the subject of a subpoena including by posting a message on the relevant online message board. The plaintiff must then identify in court filings the exact statements purportedly made by each anonymous poster, as well as show how those comments have caused damage.

Maryland's court also went further than New Jersey's, adding that the plaintiff might have to provide specific evidence supporting each element of the defamation claim. Finally, it indicated that judges also have to balance the anonymous poster's right of free speech against the need to disclose a defendant's identity.

I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD -- This is one of the farthest reaching court decisions aimed at protecting the anonymity of comment posters and bloggers along with their right to express their personal views as they see fit. Its not known if the plaintiff will seek to overturn the Maryland state judicial decision in the federal courts. (ComNews) **

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CQ PROP EDITOR CHALLENGES PROP EXPERTS

Some names in the news. First up is the Propagation Editor CQ magazine who is challenging the accuracy of the newest predictions on Solar Cycle 24.

In an online commentary posted on the CQ magazine website, Tomas Hood, NW7US, notes that this same group of what he term as so-called "experts" has issued multiple predictions for this cycle already. He notes that so far all of which they now say are wrong and he asks why we should believe they're right this time.

Hood points out that, while the Sun itself is millions of years old, scientists have been tracking solar activity for just a few hundred years. He says that in his view it is pretty arrogant to postulate that mankind has any real understanding and handle on what the Sun might do next.

The complete text of Hood's commentary is on the CQ website and may be accessed by clicking the "online commentary" link at www.cq-amateur-radio.com on the left hand side of the home page. (CQ)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: K4ZDH JOINS QRZ.COM VOLUNTEER STAFF

The giant QRZ dot com website has announced that former FCC ham radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has become the latest member of the websites volunteer staff. He will serve as a guest columnist and advisor to the QRZ staff.

Hollingsworth retired from the FCC last year where he had a distinguished career as a Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau. He was responsible for the FCC's Amateur Radio Enforcement Program and as a ham himself, has proven himself as great asset to our hobby. (QRZ.com)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: NEW UK NATIONAL HAMFEST

On the social scene, a new National Hamfest has been announced in the United Kingdom. According to the Radio Society of Great Britain, the show which is being produced in association with the Lincoln Shortwave

Club, has the full support of the major amateur radio vendors and manufacturers and will take place on 2nd and 3rd of October is the George Stephenson Hall at the Newark and Nottingham show-ground. Full details of this event can be found online at www.nationalhamfest.org.uk. (GB2RS)

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SPECIAL EVENT: THE TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF VIENNA AT 100

And It's a happy 100th birthday to the Technical Museum Vienna Austria. And to celebrate the occasion, members of the ICOM Radio Club of Vienna and the Austrian International Amateur Radio Union will be activating the special callsign O-E-100-T-M-W between June 17th and the 21st.

According to event planners, this will be a 100 hour continuous operation with stations on many of the High Frequency bands as well as VHF. All licensed amateurs are invited to come to the museum and operate the special station or make contact with it on the air. More information is on the event pages on the World Wide Web. They are in cyberspace at http://www.hamradio.at/index.php?id=73 and http://www.tmw.at/default.asp?al=Englisch&am=home (Southgate)

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OPERATING EVENTS: FIELD DAY 2009 - JUNE 27 - 28

The 2009 ARRL Field Day will be held June 26th and 27th at location near you. According to the League, its Field Day is the most popular on- the-air operating event in amateur radio. Its truly a time in that brings amateur radio to Main Street USA. This, as hams set up stations in parking lots, malls, parks and Emergency Operations Centers to demonstrate the skills that will allow them to better serve their communities.

Demonstrating the hobby in these public venues gives added public relations value. It gives all in a community a chance to see and experience both the fun and public service capability that their ham radio neighbors bring to the community.

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers "something for everyone. That's why every year, on the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. 2009 is expected to be bigger and better than ever before.

More information about Field Day can be found on the American Radio Relay League's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/fieldday. (ARRL) **

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DON TUNSTILL, W4NO - S.K.

A ham who helped to create the nations all volunteer testing and vanity call sign systems has become a silent key. David Black, KB4KCH, takes a look at the life and contributions of Don Tunstill, W4NO:

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If you have a vanity callsign, you might have Don Tunstill to thank for it. Tunstill will be remembered as a pioneer of sorts. He helped set in motion the process for radio amateurs across the country to become licensed. Tunstill worked closely with the FCC in creating the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator and vanity callsign programs.

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W4OZK: "He was just a great person and he was a great mentor, a great example for amateur radio and just a great person overall."

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That's Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, the ARRL's Southeastern Division Director. Tunstill's work extended well beyond helping hams get their licenses. He was a familiar face at the Huntsville Hamfest--he helped start the Hamfest and served as its President for 30 years. In Alabama, Tunstill founded CAVEC, the Central Alabama Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Under Tunstill's direction, CAVEC license exams eventually extended throughout Alabama and into seven other states. Again, Greg Sarratt:

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"W4OZK: "Don has done a lot for amateur radio over the years. A lot of what he's done has been behind the scenes, although he has been in the forefront of the Huntsville Hamfest Association, the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club and CAVEC. We've lost a great person."

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Don Tunstill died June 9th at his home in Huntsville. He was 69. Though suffering from emphysema, Tunstill, who was a life member of the ARRL, remained an active supporter of the Huntsville Hamfest and amateur radio.

>From Birmingham, Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, for the Amateur Radio Newsline

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A memorial service was held for Don Tunstill, W4NO, on Saturday on June 13th in Huntsville, Alabama. (ARNewsline)

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ON THE AIR: ALTUS OK. TO THE WORLD

Hams in Altus, Oklahoma, are starting a local net with a worldwide outreach. This, thanks to a local repeater tied to the world by Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP technology.

Dale Town, AF5AF, is the president of the Altus Area Amateur Radio Association. He says hat the new local net will be tied to the world using 444.650 MHz repeater that will also accept stations check-ins from Echolink operators who connect to WX5EM-R node number 361238.

The net will be held on Wednesdays at 01:00 UTC which is 2000 hours Central Daylight Savings Time. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate. (KC5FM)

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WORLDBEAT: ETHIOPIA ON THE JAM

If you regularly listen into the 7.100 to 7.200m kHz range on 40 meters, then you may have noticed some interference that has not yet gone away. Starting at 16.30 GMT and lasting about one hour, you will find on a powerful wideband rushing noise which is some 15kHz wide on 7.165 or sometimes on 7.175 kHz,. Also very faintly you can hear the carrier of a program below the jammer.

The culprit is Radio Ethiopia and it is jamming Voice of the Broad Masses from Eritrea. And this is nothing new because Ethiopia also regularly jams other transmissions in Amharic from radio Deutsche Welle, on 15 and 11MHz.

Back in 2008 Ethiopia commissioned three or four new transmitters, some of which are regularly used for jamming unwanted programs. The jamming uses a rectangular white noise signal that is some 10 to 16 kHz wide. (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT: UK MAN CHARGED IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENT THAT KILLED UK HAM

A follow-up t our story a few weeks ago we brought you the story of a tragic accident that claimed the life of Peter Rushton G7PMZ. He and Ian Firby, G7VCG, were involved in a highway collision on the United Kingdom's M 61 Motorway am May 24th. Rushton died at the scene while Firby was transported to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment.

Now the London Daily Mail reports that the brother of former England cricket captain Mike Atherton has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Chris Atherton is alleged to have changed lanes on a motorway, causing another car to swerve and overturn

Atherton, who runs a building firm, was arrested and questioned by officers before being released on bail while an investigation into the crash is carried out. You can read the Daily Mail article at

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1190901/Mike-Athertons-brother-arrested-fatal-motorway-crash.html (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT: GPS TO BE JAMMED IN SCOTTISH TEST

If you are driving in the very north of Scotland or the Orkneys between July 11th through the 16th, your G-P-S system may go brain dead. Its being jammed ad its perfectly legal.

The U-K Ministry of Defense will be conducting another Global Positioning System jamming exercise. The July tests will be for limited periods between 11.00 and 15.00 UTC. The location for the exercise is to sea westwards from 58 degrees 57.4 minutes North and 3 degrees 13.9 minutes West. This is about 60 nautical miles west of Kirkwall.

The Ministry of Defense conducts occasional tests on military systems that may result in some loss of service to civilian users of the Global Positioning System. This includes such equipment as in-car navigation devices and other networks which rely on GPS signals. (RSGB)

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WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION CANDIDATES JUBILANT

The wait is over in South Africa for 98 candidates of the 125 who entered and passed the nations Radio Amateur Examination. The oldest candidate was Mr. E. Smook, ZR2ES, from Port Elizabeth who is 74. The youngest was R. Preston, ZU4RP from who is only 9 years old. (SARL)

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THE CONTESTING CORNER: CQ ANNOUNCES NEW XTREME CATEGORY FOR CQWW DX CONTEST

CQ Magazine says that it has added a new Xtreme category to the CQ World Wide DX Contest. This, to encourage the development of new technologies in amateur radio communications in general and contesting in particular.

According to CQ World Wide Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, this new category has been established to allow amateurs to participate in the contest while experimenting creatively with Internet-linked stations and other new technologies. The highest-scoring entries in the single-operator and multi-operator categories will win the John Kanzius, K3TUP, Memorial plaques, sponsored by Tim Duffy, K3LR. Kanzius, a prominent contester, was also an experimenter who developed a potentially ground-breaking approach to cancer treatment in the course of his own, ultimately unsuccessful, battle with the disease.

The new Xtreme category will take effect with the 2009 CQ World Wide DX Contest this fall. Complete details of the are in the June issue of CQ

and are on the CQWW page of the CQ magazine website. Its at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

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WORLDBEAT: VK HAMS GET SECONDARY STATUS FROM 135.7 - 137.8 KHZ

Meantime, the Australian Communications and Media Authority has advised the Wireless Institute of Australia that any V-K amateur holding an Advanced license may now apply for a variation of their license to allow operation on a secondary basis in the low frequency band from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. Australian hams are limited to a maximum radiated power of 1 Watt Effective Radiated Power in the new low frequency band. (WIA News)

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DX

In D-X, word that SU1SK, and several other Egyptian operators will be active as SU8LH. This as the first Egyptian Lighthouse DXpedition on Ras El-Bar Island from August 1st to the 9th.

KP2YL and KP2HC will be back on St. Croix until 30th June. Listen for them using CW and SSB on 160 to 6m. Please note that June is the 6 meter DX season in the Caribbean. QSL direct only via the addresses on QRZ.com.

PF4T will be active as 8Q7TB from Embudu in the Maldives until 24th of June. He will operate SSB on 40 and 20m. QSL direct via his home call or via PA0LEY for the bureau

W5YDX will be active holiday style portable VP9 from Bermuda until the 24th of June. He expects to operate mainly on 20 and 17m SSB. QSL via home call, direct only.

Lastly in DX that's on-orbit, word that HB9OAB will activate from Morocco as CN2AB on the VO-52 ham radio satellite. This, between June 27 through July 20, 2009. More information is on-line at www dot qrz dot com slash CN2AB

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE SAGA OF THE FISHY CELLPHONE

And finally this week, the story of United Kingdom resident Andrew Cheatle and his cellphone which the June issue of Popular Communications Magazine may own the most reliable phone in the world.

In a recent interview with a United Kingdom newspaper, Cheatle explained that he was messing playing with his dog near the seashore when his cellphone phone must have fallen and got swept away. Cheatle said that he kept calling it in hope someone may have found it. Nobody

answered so he gave up after a couple of days.

Fast forward a week. Cheatle is out with his girlfriend shopping for a new cellphone when her phone rang. She told him that his mobile number was calling hers. The person on the other end identified himself as Glen Kerley. Kerley, a fisherman by trade told Cheatle that he was gutting a large codfish that morning and found Cheatle' s Nokia 1600 phone inside.

Kerley tried using the phone, but it didn't work. So he removed its SIM card, put it in his own handset, and started calling numbers from the SIM' s phonebook to find the owner.

At first Cheatle didn't believe the story but went to meet him. What he found was his phone that was a bit smelly and battered. Now heres the best part. By the time he got to Kerley's place the phone had dried out and incredibly it came back to life.

Kerley says that Cod are greedy fish-they'll eat anything. He's found plastic cups, stones, teaspoons, batteries, and everything else under the sun in them. He says that he's even heard of someone finding false teeth in one.

You can read more fun communications stories like this one on page 6 of the June issue of Popular Communications magazine.

And one last word on this story: Its rumored that Cheatle, who runs an online retail company, apparently still uses the fishy phone. Word is that there's a long line of hungry looking cats following him wherever he goes.

Well not really, but it's sure a fun sentence with which to end this weeks newscast. (PopComm)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline'sT only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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